

### Tips for Submitting Plant Disease Specimens

#### Selection of Plant material

- If the plant is Wilting, Yellowing or in general decline

If practical, it is best to send entire plant (leaves, stems, roots). Collect plants which have early symptoms. Dig up carefully. DO NOT PULL UP---many roots will be lost.

- If the plant has twig and branch blights and cankers.

Select specimens which show recent infection. Include healthy tissues with diseased tissues. DO NOT SEND TWIGS, ETC. WHICH HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THIS TYPE MATERIAL WILL NOT ALLOW FOR PROPER IDENTIFICATION.

- If the plant has foliage diseases

Select several leaves which have early and recent infections. Marginal burning of leaves should be avoided. Symptoms of this type usually indicate chemical injury or some type of root disorder (physiological or chemical).

- If the disease is on the fruit and fleshy plant organs.

Diseases of these structures require special attention. Never select a specimen which is exhibiting advanced stages of decay or disease. Select fresh specimens which exhibit early symptoms.

#### Packaging Specimens for trip to the County Extension Office

- Place diseased specimens in a plastic bag. DO NOT ADD ANY MOISTURE. Place a DRY paper towel in the plastic bag with the specimen. This will absorb any excess moisture. Fleshy fruit and vegetables should be wrapped separately. Paper towels are better wrappings, but brown paper and newspaper are good. Keep SPECIMENS COOL. DO NOT ALLOW SPECIMENS TO BECOME DRIED OUT AND BRITTLE.

- If possible bring specimens to the County Extension Office on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays. Specimens that have to be shipped to U.G.A. pathology department for identification samples shipped on Thursdays usually require longer to reach the Plant Disease Clinic. This often results in complete decay or death of specimen; therefore, diagnosis is greatly hindered.

#### Good Samples



Area showing healthy and diseased

#### Bad Samples



Dried out and brittle



Sample with a dry paper towel and plastic bag



Sample sent in a moist paper towel and plastic bag



Sample with entire root system



Sample pulled out and dried up.